

DIVINE EXAMPLES OF GOD'S SEVERE JUDGMENTS

UPON

SABBATH-BREAKERS,

In their unlawful Sports, Collected out of several Divine Subjects,

VIZ.

Mr. H. B. Mr. Beard, and the Practice of Piety: A fit Monument for our present Times, &c.

Example.

1. A Woman near Northampton, the same day the Book for sports was read, upon that Sabbath day having but three pence in her purse, hired a Fellow to fetch a Minstrel, who coming, the with others fell to Dance, and to continued within night, and the same night was got with Child, which at the Birth the murdered, and being detected and apprehended, she before the Justice confessed it, and withall told the occasion, saying it was her falling to sports on the Sabbath upon reading the Book for sports had brought her to this end, for which unnatural fact she was put to death.

2. At Northampton a young man that was at first of a loose kind of life, but after by the example of other good people had begun to reform his loose life in the Observation of the Sabbath, but hearing the Book of sports he fell again to prophane the Sabbath: at an Assizes there when the Judges were in the Church being taken as he was picking a Pocket, he confessed that upon the publishing the said Book of sports he was encouraged to wickedness, and for this suffered death.

3. A Maid at Enfield near London hearing of the Liberty given by this Book, said, she would dance, and on the Sabbath day danced so long that within two or three days she died.

4. Upon May day, being the Lords day, a Maid of the Minister of Cripplegate Parish London, was Married to a Widdower having three Children, and upon this day they kept their Marriage Feast in the Church-house joyning to the Church, and spent all the Afternoon in Dancing; but in one Week after, the Plague began in that Parish in the new Married mans House, and within one Month the Man, his Wife, and two Children died; thus the Plague began in that Parish.

5. In the same Month a Minister Rector of a Church in London, upon the Saturday would go with two Neighbours, boon Companions, to be jovial the next day; they conditioned he should bestow a Sermon upon them; they on the Lords day spent the Forenoon idly, and in the Afternoon this Minister with his Neighbours visited a London Minister that had a Benefice there, for whom he Preacht. Sermon being ended they are invited to the Ministers House to a Bottle of Sack; they drank so long that the two Neighbours tongues began to fail them. That night their Minister could not sleep and was struck with a suddain coldness, and with much ado being returned to London, he died before the next Lords day.

6. On Jan. 25. 1734. being the Lords day in the time of the great Frost, fourteen young men presuming to play at Foot-ball upon the Ice on the River Trent near to Gainsborough were all drowned.

7. At Dover the same Lords day the Book was read, one in St. James Parish that played on a Kit, with it called together divers, and that very day was struck by Divine hand, and within two days died.

8. At Tisbury in Suffolk, one made a Feast on the Sabbath day to his Friends for joy of the publishing this Book of sports on the Lords day, and the next day was preit to death by the suddain fall of a stack of Faggots.

9. At Hildburghy in Suffol. this Book being read on the Lords day, the next day a honest man, one Tomkins being on his way, his Neighbour foolishly ask him if he would dance with him the next Sunday, to whom Tomkins answered, take heed thou be not dancing in Hell before that day, or before it be long, and by the next Week this fooler and two of his Family died.

10. Feb. 9. 1634. being upon the Lords day, an Apothecaries man in Lime street London, with another Companion rid to Horse to make merry, and returning home drunk, near Highgate met a Tinker, to whom he being asked the Tinker strikes his Horse, the other bids him run him through, which he did with his Knap, the Tinker fell down dead, and both were apprehended and sent to Newgate.

11. At Tisbury near W. Chester at the publishing this Book, they prepared for a Summer-ale upon the Sabbath day, and a lusty young Wench was chosen Purveyor for Cakes, and going on the Saturday to the Mill passing by a Hedge in the way he was immediately struck and fell into the Ditch, where he was found dead; there lay all the Lords day, the Coroner being sent for on the Monday he was carried to her Grave. And the effect wrought upon the people, that no Summer-Ale was kept; but the May-pole which before they had set up they took down.

12. In Yorkshire at a Wake on the Lords day, in Otley Parish at Baildon, two men fighting at drink in the Night fell out, and being parted, the one a little after finding his fellow fighting by the fire with his back towards him, comes behind him with a Hatchet, Chines him down the back, so as his Bowels fell out the Murderer being pursued leapt into a River and drowned himself.

13. One Wright at Kingston that rejoyced much at the suspending of his Minister, for not reading the Book of sports, saying he hoped shortly to see them all so served: was in a day or two after struck with a dead Palfie all over the one side, and with Blindness and Dumbness, that he could neither go, nor see, nor speak and so lay a Fortnight and then died.

14. In Moorfields near London, divers Youths playing at Cat on the Sabbath day, two of them fell out, and the one hitting the other under the Ear with his Cat he fell down for dead in the place, the other was sent to Prison; but the dead after a time recovering, the Prisoner was released, which may be a warning to Youths prophanes.

15. April the 18. 1635. one travelling with three other from London to Maiden Head on the Saturday, the three spent the Sabbath there, but he would travel on his way contrary to the Ladies direction whom he served; he rode to Henley in the Morning and there heard the Sermon and fell to Travel in the Afternoon but in the way leading his Horse gently down a plain descent and even way, his Horse suddainly fell and broke both his fore legs; the man was amazed at the immediate hand of God as he after confest to his three fellow Travellers that overtook him, and said all the good Sermons that ever he had heard did never so work upon his Conscience as this thing did, and that example could for ever be a warning to him.

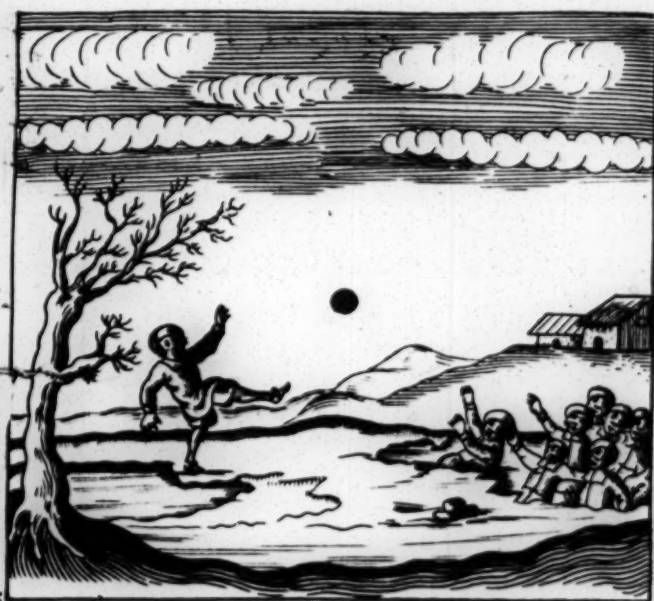
16. In 1634 one Edward Smith, a Gentleman, having been pained in his feet, and being upon his recovery, whereupon one said to him he was glad to see him so nimble: Smith replied, that he doubted not but to dance about the May-pole the next Sabbath day: but before he moved out of that place he was suddainly struck with a feebleness and dizziness in his head, that being carried to an House he died before the Lords day was done.

17. In Gloucestershire one being very forward to advance a summer meeting wherein his Son was to be stickler, went himself to see it and there beholding it he fell down dead and never saw the Sabbath.

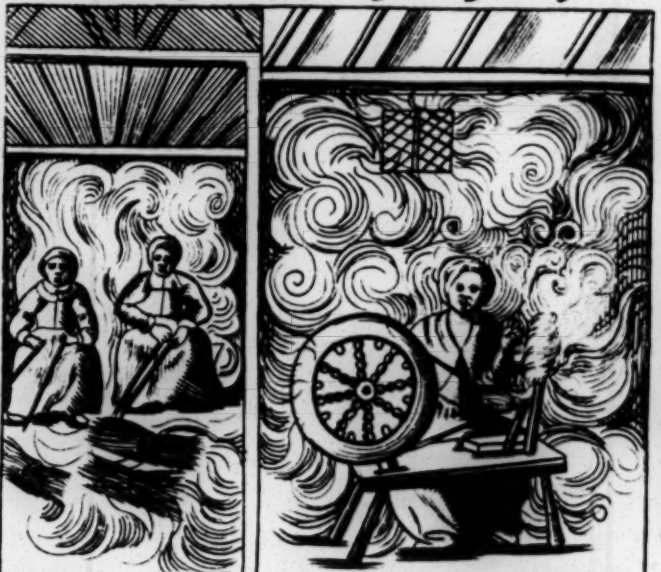
18. A Miller at Churchdown, near Gloucester, would needs (contrary to the admonitions both of his Minister in private,



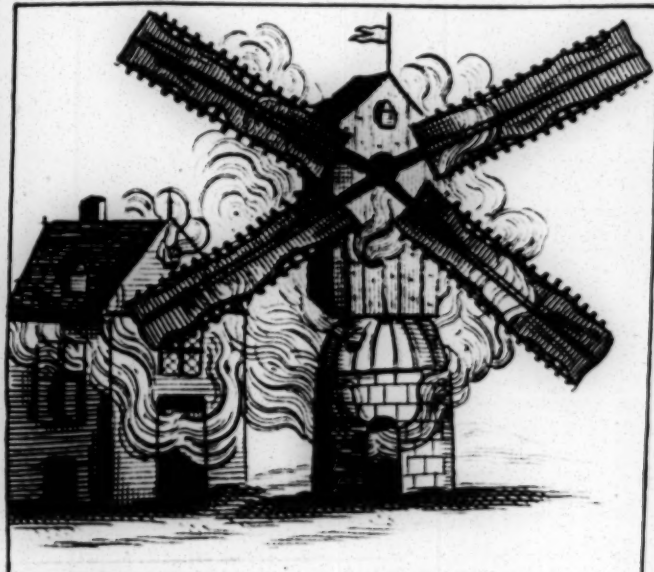
Remember that thou keep a holy Sabbath Day. The profane Israelite, that daunt assay, In gathering sticks, to break the Sabbath day, Is prone to death, for like Contumacy The Lord hath sworn, that every Soule shall dye.



Several Young men playing at foot-ball on the Ice upon the Lords day are all Drowned.



A Woman and her two Daughters pill and dry flax on the Lords day, are all burnt.



A Millers House and Mill Burnt etc.

Differences of the Jewish from the Christian Sabbath. The Jewish Sabbath was kept in remembrance of the Worlds Creation, Christians Sabbath is kept in remembrance of the Worlds Redemption. The Jews as a Figure of Grace that they should rest from servitude of sin, Christians as a Figure of Glory when they shall rest from occasions of sinning. The Jews had bodily Sacrifices of Beasts, We Christians of Prayer, They kept the Priesthood of the Law, We Christian Ministers of the Gospel, Temples and Synagogues, We Christian Churches. They Sacraments of Circumcision, Passover, We of Baptism and the Lords Supper. Now to keep holy a Sabbath to the Lord is to celebrate an Holy rest unto God, not only to abstain from all labour of the body, but also practicing all Godly Exercises, as Prayer, hearing the Word, receiving the Sacraments, &c. And to prophane this day is to labour in service of the World, or to travel about ordinary business, to keep Fairs and Markets on this day, or to use sports and recreations, or any thing else more than things of necessity.

Scriptural Examples of suddain Judgments for several sins. When Belshazzar was Feasting with his Nobles, the Fearful hand writing was upon the wall. While Herod wanted himself, and the people honoured him like God, the Angel smote him, and he dyed of Worms. While the Philistines were banqueting, Sampson pulled the Temple upon their Heads. When the men of Zibah were Feasting and Dancing, David came upon them and slew them. If he were slain which on the Sabbath day, For need did gather sticks: Oh! how shall they

and generally in publick, yea and that very day, and of other Christian friends, keep a solemn Whitsun ale, for which he had made large preparation and provision even of three score dozen of Cheese-cakes with other things proportionable: in the Church house half a mile from his Mill, his Musical Instruments were set forth on the side of a Church house, where the Minister and people were to pass to the Church to Evening Prayer, when that and Sermon were ended, the Drum is struck up, the Peebles discharged, the Musicians play, and the rout fall a dancing, till the Evening: where they all with the Miller resort to his Mill; where that Evening before they had fup, about nine of the Clock on Whitsun day, a fire took suddainly in his House over their heads, and was brief and quick, that it burnt down his House and Mill, and devoured withall the greatest of all his other Provision and Household stuff. This is confirmed by sundry good Testimonies.

19. At Baunton in Dorsetshire some being at bowls on the Lords day, one flinging his Bowl at his fellow Bowler, hit him on the Ear, so as the blood issued forth at the other Ear, whereof he shortly died. The Murderer fled.

20. One good man Paul near Stoke in Dorsetshire, rejoycing much at the erecting of a Summer-pole, at a Parish called Simsbury in Dorsetshire, and saying before one of his Neighbours, he would go see it, though he went naked through a Quickset Hedge: which is a common Proverb they use: Going with Wood in his Arms to cast into the Bonfire, where he lived, and using these words: Heaven and Earth are full of the glory of the Lord: he was presently smitten by the stroke of God, and within two or three daies died, and his Wife with him. These two last examples are testified by a Minister in his letter to a Brother Minister.

21. In the edge of Essex near Brinkley, two Fellows working in a Chalk pit, the one was boasting to his fellow, how he had angered his Mistress with faying so late at their Sports the last Sunday night, but he said he would anger her worse the next Sunday. He had no sooner said this, but suddainly the Earth fell down upon him, and flew him out right, with the fall whereof his fellows limb was broken, who had been also Partner with him in his jollity on the Lords day, escaping with his life, that he might tell the truth, that God might be glorified, and that by this warning he might repent of his sin, and reform such his prophanes, and remain a Filler of Salt, to season others with fear by his Example.

When the Israelites were at their Mannas and Quails, even while the meat was in their mouths, God took away their Lives. When Job's children were making merry one with another, the Wind came and blew down the House. While the whole World was marrying and giving in marriage, the Flood came and drowned them. While the Steward was recounting what policy to use, the Master called him to account. While the Churl was musing of his full Barns, and saying to himself, my soul be merry, that night his soul was taken from him. Abel's blood suddainly cries for vengeance. Jeroboam was stricken while he struck. Baalam was smitten in the way. Judas presently hang'd himself. Herod, Saul, Athaliah, and Jezebel, had their offices taken from them for sin. Remember Lots Wife. Haman hanging upon his own Gallows, and Achans's sepulchre. Sins against mercy bring the severest Judgments, Read Leviticus 24. from ver. 14. to 40.

Israel the miracle of mercy, that grew from 70. souls in a few years to six hundred thousand, the more offered the more they preferred, like Camomile or the Palm-tree, but when they abused Mercy and slighted Sabbath, they became the greatest Objects of Wrath. There died partly by the Sword, and partly of Famine, Eleven hundred thousand of the poorer sort. Two thousand in one night were imbowed, six thousand were burned in a Torch of the Temple, the whole City was sack and burnt, and ninety seven thousand taken Captives. And to this day are they not the off-scouring of the World?

Escape Gods wrath, which for be a self or pleasure, to leave Gods Sabbaths in most reverent measure.

22. The last Spring a Miller hard by Wotton in Wiltshire, went on the Lords day to a Wake, whence returning home again, the same day at night found his Mill and House and all on a fire; this was testified by a Minister (in a reply to another Minister) who was an Eye witness.

23. At Wootton in the same County, where the said Ministers Iather had been Minister forty years, and by Gods blessing upon his Labours, had reformed things very well; yet upon the publication of this Book in print, many of the Inhabitants the Spring following, were imboldened to set up May poles, Morris Dance, and a Whitsun ale, continuing their rude revelling a Week together, with many affronts to their ancient and reverend Pallour: but it pleased God, that not long after, a spark from a Smiths shop, caught in that room where the Ale was brewed, and though means were ready at hand, yet it could not be quenched, but set the House on fire, and presently flew to the Barn, in which their disorder was, and burnt the same with thirteen Dwelling Houses more, most of whose Inhabitants were Actors or Abettors in the same: This is testified by many.

24. In the year of our Lord 1633. Osh. 25. after the Book of sports was known to be published in print, David Price, a Wellman, servant to one Thomas Hill, a known Grafter of that County, coming to Banbury with his Dove on Saturday night, declared his purpose of driving them the next day early in the Morning, being the Sabbath or Lords day: his Host where he lodged, dissuaded him, because it was the Sabbath day, and told him that he would certainly be stopped, and made to pay for it according to the Statute. He answered that he would drive them, and let me see (saith he) who will hinder me. So in the Morning, two other accompanying him, he went to fetch the Cattle out of the Ground, one that knew him, met him at the Towns end (not yet out of the Town) and admonished him, saying, What, David, to day he made no answer, but went onward, and though for any thing that appeared to any other, or that himself complained of, he was then in good health, as ever he was, yet within little more than a fones call off the Town, he fell down dead suddainly, and was buried in Banbury Churchyard the next day after; None could discern any sensible or evident cause of so suddain a surprisal, and himself gave no sign of any pains, weakness, or illness, till the instant time he gave up the ghost.

25. At Wicky, a Town betwixt Colch. Ber and Harwich in Essex, upon

Whitsunday last in the Afternoon, two Fellows meeting at the football, the one killed the other.

26. At Oxford on the Sabbath day, one Bally Hawk a Butcher, would needs go into his field with an hatchet and shovel to mend his ditch: his Wife dissuaded him what he could, being the Sabbath day, but he said he would go make an end of his work, which he did, for suddainly he was struck dead in his ditch, and so made an end of his work, and his life together.

27. Also at Oxford a Carpenter undertaking to mend a Stage in St. Johns College on the Saturday night, for the finishing whereof he must necessarily spend some part of the Lords day morning, that the Stage might be ready against the Munday following, he that night fell backward from the Stage, being not far from the ground, and brake his neck, and so ended his life in a fearful Tragedy.

28. A young man near Bow, going to swim in the River on Effra side, on the Lords day in the Afternoon, was drowned.

29. Two boys of St. Albans, going to Verulam's Pounds, a mile off to swim on the Lords day, Jan'y 12. one of them was drowned, and the other hardly escaped.

30. At Ramsey in Suffolk, a tall man on the Lords day going with others to swim, and being adverted and warned of a hole in the water, he fware that there was no place there could drown him, but by and on a suddain he was missing, being now under water and so drowned.

31. On Septemb. 13. 1635. being the Lords day, two young men of the Parish of St. Dunstons in the Well, London, going to swim, were both drowned.

32. At Lemster, one Master Powle, January 1634. on the Lords day serving a Writ of sub poena (and that of purpose on that day as is credibly reported) upon one Mr. Shute, a Gentleman, this he did in the Church yard, so soon as they were come out of the Church: Mr. Shute thereupon told him, I thought you had been an holier man than so, to do this upon this day; he replied, I hope I am never a whit the more dithoneit, or less holy for that; having spoken this, he suddainly fell down dead, and spake not a word more, his Wife seeing this was suddainly struck with sickness.

33. A Fellow in Summerschire being to make a Tent upon the Lords day, for a Fair that was to be kept upon the Munday following, said to one on the Saturday, that they would rear it to morrow, so the next day which was the Lords day, being drunk, he did the same day roaring.

34. In June 1635. on the Lords day, the Tapler and Chamberlain of the Queens head in Southwark, rid into Kent to be merry; and having drunk liberally, riding homewards, the one of them fell from his Horse and broke his neck.

35. Also in June 1635. and as some report the very same Lords day, in Southwark, at the Red Lion, near St. Georges Church in the Afternoon, a man with another late drinking so long, that the other about six of the Clock departing, fell a sleep, that he never awoke again.

These Examples were Collected from Beards Theater of Gods Judgments, and the Cradle of Piety.

36. A Noble man in France, that used to go a hunting on the Sabbath day; his Wife brought forth a Child with a Dogs head.

37. At Enghien in France, a covetous Woman used on the Sabbath day to dry and pill flax, and would not be warned although her flax took fire two several Lords days, but on the third sabbath, she and her two Children were burnt to death.

38. Some in France at their Husbandry upon the Sabbath, have been struck with Thunder, some had their Bodies and Bones burnt with visible fire, and consumed to ashes: Scaffold at Playes on the sabbath day have fallen, and many have been wounded: some killed out right.

39. In 1583. at Paris Garden, upon the Sabbath day, a great Company were gathered to behold a fort of Bear baiting, the Scaffold suddainly brake, and Eight were slain out-right; and many more wounded.

40. A Husbandman grinding Corn upon the Lords day, had his Meal burnt to Ashes.

41. Another carrying Corn on this day, had his Barn and all his Corn therein burnt with fire from Heaven.

42. Strafford upon Avon, was twice on the same day twelve month (being the Lords day) almost consumed with fire, chiefly for prophaning that day.

43. The Inhabitants of Tiverton in Devonshire, were great prophanes of this day, of which their godly Minister did admonish them; and not long after his death, on the third of April 1598. By a suddain fire, the whole Town was almost consumed, to the number of 400. Houses, and 50. Persons in the Flames.

44. And once since in 1612. the same Town was almost consumed again; a sure token of Gods anger.

Royal King Solomon hath a true saying; that Judgments are prepared for scorners, Prov. 19. 23. And in this short view you may behold Judgments executed.

The Lord hath made his day known by his Judgments, Numb. 15. 32. Sec. To teach the Inhabitants of the World righteousness. Isa. 26. 9.

These Tragical spectacles of divine Justice proclaim the prophane nation of the Lords most sacred day, a crying sin. Which hath been confirmed by the whole State in Parliaments in two famous Statutes in the first of Carol. and in the third of Carol. and two Ancient Acts in Hen. and Edw 6.

The Homilies, Common-prayer-book, Canons, Articles, and Injunctions conclude the same.

Our late Sovereigns of blessed memory King James and King Charles in the first year of both their Reigns in the several books of Common-prayer, and order for the publick Worship by one by their Royal Authorities for the averting and casting off those dreadful Plagues which then swallowed up many thousands, Confess that among other sins, the prophane nation of the Sabbath, and not keeping holy the Lords day, was one chief cause why these two great Plagues brake in upon us.

God grants that these punishments of some may be a warning to us all, and as Cyprian that Ancient Father well saith, be so over audacious, who strives to pass over there where he hath from another to have falsus; he is outrageously headstrong who is not struck with fear, when he beholds another perill in that course which he is running; he loves his own safety, who takes warning by the sin of others; and be alone is a prudent man who is made wise by the Ruins of others men.

May these Judgments on some, become Remedy to others, who are sick of the self same sin. Which is shewed of the Publisher.